

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

TRSE-00 /065 W

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R 090733Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7100

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PINT, PK

SUBJECT: CMLA ON THE SAWDUST TRAIL

REFS: ISLAMABAD A-29, A-39 AND A-43.

1. SUMMARY: DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY THE CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, GENERAL ZIA UL-HAQ HAS ONCE AGAIN TAKEN TO THE STUMP TO EXPOUND ON HIS VIEW OF THE ISLAMIC PARADISE WHICH CAN BE PAKISTAN'S FUTURE. IN A SERIES OF SPEECHES WHICH ARE LONG ON ADVICE BUT SHORT ON CONCRETE PROPOSALS, THE CMLA HAS EXHORTED ENGINEERS TO SOLVE PAKISTAN'S WATERLOGGING PROBLEMS AND FARMERS TO MAKE PAKISTAN SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD. THE SPEECHES COUPLED A FRANK AND PERceptive ANALYSIS OF PAKISTAN'S ILLS WITH GENERAL ZIA'S MESSIANIC VISION OF PROGRESS THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ISLAMIC SYSTEM. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED IN MULTAN THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DENATIONALIZATION OF GHEE MILLS, BANKS, OR INSURANCE COMPANIES ALTHOUGH HE WELCOMED PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN GHEE MILLS. END SUMMARY.

2. ADDRESSING THE 56TH SESSION OF THE ENGINEERING CONGRESS IN LAHORE ON MAY 4 GENERAL ZIA SAID THAT THE FAILURE TO DEAL WITH THE WATERLOGGING AND SALINITY PROBLEM AT AN EARLIER STAGE HAS RESULTED IN INCREASING DETERIORATION OF THE AFFECTED AREAS TO

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THE EXTENT THAT THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF SIND THREATENS TO TURN INTO A LAKE. THE CMLA URGED THE ENGINEERS TO REFLECT ON HOW THIS ONCE FERTILE AREA OF PAKISTAN, WITH ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, COULD REACH THIS STATE. HE ALSO URGED THE SCIENTISTS TO ASSIST PAKISTAN IN DEVELOPING ITS AGRICULTURE ALONG SCIENTIFIC LINES. HE SAID THAT BY PROPER UTILIZATION OF PRESENTLY AVAILABLE RESOURCES PAKISTAN COULD INCREASE ITS

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT BY THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT AND THE INTRODUCTION OF SCIENTIFIC METHODS AND BETTER PROVISION OF WATER AND SEED COULD INCREASE OUTPUT BY TWO HUNDRED PERCENT. FINALLY, THE ASSEMBLED ENGINEERS WERE URGED TO PRODUCE A PLAN FOR IMPROVING THE RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY'S CITIES.

3. GENERAL ZIA SAID THAT, WHILE PAKISTAN WOULD NEVER STAND IN THE WAY OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S GOING ABROAD FOR BETTER OPPORTUNITY, IT WAS THE MORAL DUTY OF THE ENGINEERS AND DOCTORS TO SEE THAT PAKISTAN, WHICH HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PRESENT POSITION, BENEFITED FROM THEIR KNOWLEDGE. HE SAID THAT EXPERTS AND ENGINEERS SERVING ABROAD SHOULD RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR (AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE) TO STUDY ITS PROBLEMS AND SUGGEST SOLUTIONS.

4. TWO DAYS LATER IN MULTAN, THE CMLA EXHORDED AN AUDIENCE OF AGRICULTURALISTS TO LAUNCH A "CRUSADE" TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD. HE SAID THAT PAKISTAN WOULD IMPORT 1.2 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT THIS YEAR TO FEED ITSELF (A POINT HE ALSO STRESSED IN HIS SPEECH TO THE ENGINEERS WHERE HE ALSO SAID THAT AN IMPORT OF 2.2 MILLION TONS WOULD BE NECESSARY NEXT YEAR GIVEN THE PROJECTED RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH). GENERAL ZIA SAID THAT, DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S CLAIMS OVER RECENT YEAR THAT SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD WAS BEING ACHIEVED, THE REALITY IS THAT PAKISTAN IS FARTHER THAN EVER FROM FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY. NOT ONLY DOES THE DETERIORATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AFFECT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGRICULTURAL POPULATION, IT ALSO HAS AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

5. POINTING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE "CRUSADE", GENERAL ZIA SAID THAT 288 RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTERS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE PUNJAB AND THE REQUISITE INPUTS HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE THERE. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLANS FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND REWARDS FOR SMALL COTTON GROWERS WHO SOW THEIR COTTON IN ROWS IN ORDER TO STEP UP THE PER ACRE YIELD. HE ANNOUNCED THE NEW VARIETY OF COTTON, 557-B, WHICH HAS RETURNED A VERY GOOD YIELD ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS.

6. HE TOLD NEWSMEN THE SAME DAY AT MULTAN AIRPORT THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF DENATIONALIZING GHEE MILLS, BANKS, OR INSURANCE COMPANIES. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR ALONGSIDE THE PUBLIC SECTOR, AND WHILE THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS WELCOME TO SET UP NEW GHEE MILLS, THOSE ALREADY NATIONALIZED WOULD REMAIN IN GOVERNMENT HANDS.

HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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